

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1018

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 OTTAWA 3665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, CA

SUBJ: SOME LIKELY CANADIAN POSITIONS AT 31ST UNGA

1. THE FOLLOWING IS THE EMBASSY'S ANALYSIS OF LIKELY CANADIAN POSTURES OR ATTITUDES ON MAJOR ISSUES WHICH WILL EMERGE EITHER AT THE 31ST UNGA OR IN THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES. NOT A COMPREHENSIVE LISTING NOR AN ATTEMPT TO PREDICT THE CANADIAN VOTING RECORD (NOT EVEN GOC EXTAFF OFFICIAL WOULD BE CONFIDENT WITH THE LATTER AT THIS POINT), THIS ANALYSIS IS DESIGNED MERELY TO GIVE A GENERAL FEEL FOR LIKELY CANADIAN ACTION OR REACTION IN THE UN THIS FALL.

2. ZIONISM-RACISM - ANY ATTEMPT TO EQUATE ZIONISM WITH RACISM IS ANATHEMA TO CANADA. IT VOTED FOR THE BELGIAN MOTION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF THE ANTI-ZIONISM RESOLUTION DURING THE LAST UNGA. IN MAY, THE GOC STOOD ALONE WITH ITS NAY VOTE ON ECOSOC CONSIDERATION OF THE
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DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM BECAUSE OF THE ZIONISM/RACISM

CONNECTION. IF THE OFFENSIVE LANGUAGE REMAINS AT THE TIME OF THE 1977 GHANA CONFERENCE ON THE DECADE TO COMBAT RACISM, AN EXTAFF OFFICIAL HAS TOLD US THE GOC "WON'T TOUCH IT (THE CONFERENCE) WITH A BARGE POLE." THIS UNCHARACTERISTIC CANADIAN INFLEXIBILITY STEMS, IN PART, FROM THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL PRESSURES EXERTED BY POWERFUL JEWISH GROUPS, PARTICULARLY IN THE METRO MONTREAL AND TORONTO AREAS. IN A RARE UNANIMOUS VOTE LAST NOVEMBER, THE CANADIAN HOUSE OF COMMONS CONDEMNED THE UNGA RESOLUTION LINKING ZIONISM AND RACISM. THERE ARE INDICATIONS, AS WELL, THAT MINEXTAFF ALLAN MACEACHEN IS PERSONALLY OPPOSED TO THE LINKAGE. FOR WHATEVER REASONS, THE GOC CAN BE EXPECTED TO PARTICIPATE FULLY IN ANY EFFORTS TO HEAD OFF ZIONISM/RACISM CAMPAIGNS WHEREVER THEY MAY APPEAR DURING THIS SESSION. SIMILARLY AND IN KEEPING WITH ITS POLICY OF UNIVERSALITY OF MEMBERSHIP (SEE BELOW) THE GOC WILL RESIST, WITHOUT RESERVATION, EFFORTS TO EXPEL OR CURB THE MEMBERSHIP RIGHTS OF ISRAEL IN THE UNGA ON SPECIALIZED AGENCIES.

3. KOREA -- THE GOC WILL SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF THE CORE GROUP AND INDEED IS CO-SPONSORING THE FRIENDLY RESOLUTION ON KOREA THIS YEAR. THE GOC WILL DO SO, HOWEVER, WITHOUT THE RESOLVE IT DEMONSTRATED EARLIER THIS YEAR IN CORE GROUP ACTIVITIES. CANADA BELIEVES THAT ITS PROPOSAL FOR A NEW PEACEKEEPING FORCE WAS GIVEN SHORT SHRIFT BY THE CORE GROUP AND ASSERTS THAT THE FRIENDLY SIDE OFFERS NOTHING NEW THIS YEAR. THE GOC ANTICIPATES THAT THE RESULTS WILL NOT BE AS FAVORABLE AS THE STANDOFF LAST YEAR.

4. CANADA'S CURRENT STANCE ON THE KOREAN ISSUE DEMONSTRATES TWO IMPORTANT STRAINS OF CANADIAN POLICY. ON THE ONE HAND, HER HEAVY TRADING INTERESTS IN JAPAN AND, INCREASINGLY, IN ASIA DICTATE THAT SHE ASSUME A RELATIVELY HIGH PROFILE ON THIS QUESTION. AND, WHATEVER HER DESIRES TO CURRY FAVOR IN THE NAM, THE ACTIVITIES OF NORTH KOREA AND FRIENDS IN THE HOSTILE GROUP ARE SIMPLY TOO HEAVY-HANDED AND POTENTIALLY DESTABILIZING TO ALLOW FOR CANADIAN INDIFFERENCE, LET ALONE SUPPORT. ON THE OTHER HAND, HOWEVER, CANADA'S SENSITIVITIES

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WERE BRUISED BY CORE GROUP PERFUNCTORY DISMISSAL OF ITS PEACEKEEPING FORCE PROPOSAL. THIS DAMAGED ITS SELF-IMAGE AS AN ACTIVE MIDDLE-POWER PLAYING A USEFUL CONCILIATORY ROLE. AND THE FEELING THAT THERE IS NOTHING NEW THIS YEAR RUNS COUNTER TO GOC'S SINCERE BELIEF THAT THE UN CAN BE A FORUM IN WHICH POSITIVE CHANGE TAKES PLACE. THE UPSHOT IS A DISGRUNTLED GOC WHICH WILL GO ALONG WITH THE CORE GROUP, THIS YEAR AT LEAST, BUT WITHOUT ENTHUSIASM.

5. SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS -- THE GOC IS UNCERTAIN AS TO HOW OR WHEN MAJOR ISSUES IN THIS AREA (SOUTH AFRICAN RACIAL POLICY, NAMIBIA, RHODESIA) MAY ARISE AT THE UNGA BUT WILL BE PREPARED TO RESPOND ALONG THE FOLLOWING GENERAL LINES. IN KEEPING WITH ITS ENDORSEMENT OF UNIVERSALITY, THE GOC IS OPPOSED TO EFFORTS TO EXPEL SOUTH AFRICA FROM THE UN. AT THE SAME TIME, THE GOC OPPOSES SOUTH AFRICAN RACIAL POLICY AND THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF SOUTH AFRICA IN NAMIBIA. IN THE LATTER REGARD, THE GOC WILL SUPPORT PROPOSALS FOR NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE SO LONG AS SUCH DO NOT EXPLICITLY ENCOURAGE VIOLENT MEANS TO THE INDEPENDENCE END. THIS DISTINCTION COLORS GOC POLICY IN SOUTHERN AFRICA GENERALLY; THAT IS, CANADA WILL SUPPORT RESOLUTIONS CALLING FOR INDEPENDENCE OR THE ASSERTION OF MAJORITY POLITICAL RIGHTS BUT ONLY IF THE LANGUAGE DOES NOT INCITE VIOLENCE. AN EXTAFF OFFICIAL TOLD EMBOFF THAT THE CANADIAN PROFILE ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN QUESTIONS WILL DEPEND ON WHETHER SOUTH AFRICA "TURNS UP" AT THE UNGA (AND CANADIANS DOUBT THAT THEY WILL). WITHOUT SOUTH AFRICA, THE GOC EXPECTS THAT RESOLUTIONS WILL PASS WITH LITTLE CONTROVERSY AND WE TAKE IT THAT THE GOC PLANS TO GO WITH THE TIDE.

6. CANADA DOES NOT RECOGNIZE THE SMITH REGIME AS THE LAWFUL GOVERNMENT OF RHODESIA AND WILL, THEREFORE, VOTE FOR ANY RESOLUTIONS CENSURING THE RHODESIAN REGIME AND CALLING FOR BLACK MAJORITY RULE. IF THE LANGUAGE CALLS FOR VIOLENT MEANS, HOWEVER, CANADA MAY ABSTAIN.

7. MIDDLE EAST QUESTIONS -- APART FROM THE MYRIAD PROBLEMS ARISING FROM THE ARAB/ISRAEL SITUATION AND THE TANGLED WEB IN LEBANON, THE GOC DOES NOT ANTICIPATE MAJOR UNGA
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ISSUES RELATING TO THE MIDDLE EAST. THE MANDATES OF THE UNDOF, UNFICYP, AND UNEF WILL BE UP FOR RENEWAL DURING NOVEMBER IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL. ACCORDING TO AN EXTAFF SOURCE, THERE WILL BE LITTLE PROBLEM WITH CONTINUED GOC PARTICIPATION AT THE PRESENT LEVELS. THE GOC WILL NOT, HOWEVER, BE PREPARED TO INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD OTHER MEMBERS DECIDE TO REDUCE THEIRS.

8. THE CANADIANS, PURSUANT TO THE NOVEMBER 1975 DEFENSE STRUCTURE REVIEW, WILL MAKE AVAILABLE UP TO 2000 CANADIAN TROOPS FOR PEACEKEEPING PURPOSES. BEYOND THAT POINT THEY PRESUMABLY WILL NOT BE WILLING TO GO. ON THE GENERAL QUESTION OF CANADIAN PEACEKEEPING FORCES, GOC POLICY HAS CHANGED SOMEWHAT FROM HER EARLIER STANCE OF NEARLY AUTOMATIC RESPONSE TO THE CALL FOR TROOPS AND A PASSIVE

ROLE IN ANY DISPUTE IN WHICH CANADIAN TROOPS WERE INVOLVED.
ACCORDING TO AN INTERNAL EXTAFF DOCUMENT, QUOTE:

CANADA HAS TRADITIONALLY FOLLOWED A POLICY THAT, WHENEVER IT WAS INVOLVED IN A PARTICULAR INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING OPERATION, IT SHOULD MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL POSITION ON THE POLITICAL ASPECTS OF THE DISPUTE, AND THEREFORE AVOID BECOMING INVOLVED IN THE PEACEKEEPING PROCESS. IT WAS BELIEVED THAT A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION COULD BE EFFECTIVE ONLY IF ITS PARTICIPANTS REMAINED PERSONA GRATA WITH THE TWO SIDES TO THE DISPUTE AND THAT THE DEGREE OF OBJECTIVITY REQUIRED TO THAT END PRECLUDED THE EXPRESSION OF POLITICAL JUDGMENTS AND THE INVOLVEMENTS INHERENT IN PEACEKEEPING ACTIVITIES. THIS POLICY WILL BE MODIFIED: CANADA WILL BE PREPARED TO PLAY A MORE ACTIVE ROLE IN EFFORTS TO FIND A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT TO A PARTICULAR DISPUTE, AS CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT AND TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE LIMITS TO CANADA'S INFLUENCE. AT THE SAME TIME, CANADA WILL CONTINUE TO REMIND THOSE WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT CANADA'S WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IS LESS AUTOMATIC AND UNQUESTIONING THAN IT HAS BEEN IN THE PAST AND WILL DEPEND IN PART ON THE VIGOR WITH WHICH THEY PURSUE THEIR PEACEKEEPING EFFORTS. QUNOTE.

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9. THE FINANCIAL PLIGHT OF UNRWA IS OF SINCERE CONCERN TO CANADA AND, ON AUGUST 23, CANADA ANNOUNCED AN ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTION OF \$300,000 TO THAT AGENCY. THE GOC ANTICIPATES THAT THE FINANCIAL SITUATION OF UNRWA MAY BE AIRE D DURING THE COMING GA SESSION AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS MAY RAISE THE QUESTION OF A LIKELY US RESPONSE DURING PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS.

10. ANTI-COLONIALISM -- THE GOC ASSUMES THAT A RESOLUTION RE AMERICAN SAMOA/GUAM/US VIRGIN ISLANDS WILL EMERGE AGAIN IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE AND THE UNGA. LAST YEAR, GOC VOTED FOR THE RESOLUTION IN THE FOURTH COMMITTEE BUT THEN MOVED TO ABSTENTION IN PLENARY CONSIDERATION. THE CANADIAN POSTURE THIS YEAR WILL DEPEND UPON THE FORM OF THE RESOLUTION. IF IT IS VERY GENERAL, THEY MAY VOTE IN FAVOR OF IT. IF IT CONTAINS EXTREME LANGUAGE THEY WILL ABSTAIN.

11. THE GOC HAS INDICATIONS THAT THE PUERTO RICO AND
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PANAMA QUESTIONS MAY BE RAISED IN THE UNGA WITHIN THE TROJAN HORSE OF A LATIN AMERICAN RESOLUTION NOTING FAVORABLY THE LATIN AMERICAN AMPHICTYONIC CONFERENCE. THE GOC UNDERSTANDS THAT THE CONFERENCE WAS LARGELY A BUST BUT THAT SOME LATIN AMERICANS INTEND TO INSCRIBE THE ISSUE ON THE AGENDA AND THIS COULD LEAD TO CONSIDERATION OF PUERTO RICO AND PANAMA. ON PUERTO RICO, GOC WILL STAND BY THE U.S. IN PART BECAUSE THE CANADIANS SEE SIMILARITIES TO THEIR OWN QUEBEC SITUATION. ON PANAMA, THE GOC POSTURE IS MORE WAFFLING AND HER POSITION WILL DEPEND ON WORDING OF WHATEVER LANGUAGE MAY APPEAR. WHILE THE GOC HOPES THAT NEITHER ISSUES IS RAISED, THEY ASSUME THAT THIS WILL NOT BE THE CASE SINCE BOTH WERE DISCUSSED IN COLOMBO.

12. WITH THE GENERAL TOPIC OF ANTI-COLONIALISM, SO WITH NUMEROUS OTHER UN SUBJECTS IN WHICH THE DCS AND THE LDCS MAY CLASH, CANADA OFTEN TRIES TO STEER A MIDDLE COURSE. IT HARBORS A STRONG, BASIC SYMPATHY FOR THE DEVELOPING COUNTRY, NON-ALIGNED CAUSE TO WHICH IT HAS A CERTAIN KINSHIP. CANADA IS WITHOUT A COLONIZING PAST, AN IMPORTANT ENTREE IN NAM CIRCLES, AND ITS ECONOMY IS HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON THE EXPORT OF RAW MATERIALS. CANADA LIVES ALSO IN THE SHADOW OF A SUPER-POWER AND, THROUGH HER "THIRD OPTION" AND OTHER MEANS, HAS SOUGHT TO INCREASE ITS DEPENDENCE FROM THE INEVITABLE PULL OF U.S. POLICY. AT THE SAME TIME,

CANADA IS INESCAPABLY LODGED IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED, DEVELOPED COUNTRY CAMP WITH STRONG MILITARY, TRADE AND FINANCIAL LINKS TO THE UNITED STATES, WESTERN EUROPE AND JAPAN. CANADA'S STANDARD OF LIVING, WHICH IS AMONG THE HIGHEST IN THE WORLD, ITS INDUSTRIALIZED ECONOMY AND ITS DEMOCRATIC TRADITION MAKE AN ALTERNATIVE POSTURE UNTHINKABLE. THE UPSHOT OF THESE OFTEN-CONFLICTING PULLS BETWEEN SYMPATHY FOR THIRD WORLD ASPIRATIONS AND THE REALITY OF ITS DEVELOPED COUNTRY STATUS LEAD CANADA NOT INFREQUENTLY TO SEEK A MIDDLE GROUND POSITION ON UN ISSUES. IN CANADA'S VIEW, ITS MOST EFFECTIVE UN ROLE OFTEN IS THAT OF THE HONEST BROKER SEEKING COMPROMISE BETWEEN EXTREME LDC AND DC POSITIONS. THIS ROLE ALLOWS IT THE SATISFACTION OF PLAYING A POSITIVE, ACTIVIST PART IN UN AFFAIRS WHILE ESTABLISHING ITS CREDENTIALS AS MORE THAN A MERE LACKEY OF THE U.S.

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13. IN KEEPING WITH ITS DESIRE TO OCCUPY MIDDLE GROUND WHENEVER POSSIBLE ON QUESTIONS INVOLVING LDC/DC CONFRONTATION, CANADA VALUES THE USE OF CONSENSUS PASSAGE OF AN ITEM OR CLAUSE BY CLAUSE VOTING OR ABSTENTION. THE GOC DOES NOT FEEL AS COMFORTABLE WITH A "TAKE-IT-OR-LEAVE-IT" APPROACH ON TICKLISH ISSUES. EXTAFF OFFICIALS BRISTLE AT THE SUGGESTION THAT THIS IS A WAFLING TECHNIQUE AND, IN AN INTERNAL EXTAFF DOCUMENT, THE DRAFTERS HAD THE FOLLOWING TO SAY ABOUT ABSTENTION:

QUOTE MISUNDERSTANDING IN CANADA ABOUT AN ABSTENTION APPEARS TO BE BASED ON THE BELIEF THAT IT REFLECTS A REFUSAL TO 'STAND UP AND BE COUNTED', EITHER BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT HAS NO POLICY ON THE ISSUE AT HAND OR PREFERS NOT TO REVEAL ITS POLICY. THIS IS NOT A CORRECT ASSUMPTION. FOR CANADA, AN ABSTENTION IS A CONSCIOUS, ACTIVE AND POSITIVE DECISION, TAKEN FOR ONE OF THE REASONS OUTLINED ABOVE; IT IS NOT THE RESULT OF INDIFFERENCE OF INDECISIVENESS. QUNOTE

14. THERE ARE TWO IMPORTANT CAVEATS TO THE ASSERTION THAT CANADA CAN FREQUENTLY BE FOUND STRADDLING OR ATTEMPTING TO STRADDLE AN ISSUE SETTING LDC AGAINST DC. FIRST, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF TOPICS ON WHICH PURELY CANADIAN SELF-INTEREST DICTATES A PREDICTABLE AND INFLEXIBLE POSITION. THE ZIONISM/RACISM AND PUERTO RICO ARE, FOR EXAMPLE, TWO SUCH CASES. SECOND, THE CANADIAN TENDENCY TO STROKE, WHEREVER POSSIBLE, THIRD WORLD SENSITIVITIES CANNOT OBSCURE AN ABSOLUTELY FUNDAMENTAL POINT. ON ANY GIVEN MAJOR ISSUE, CANADA'S POINT OF DEPARTURE IS LIKELY TO BE ENTIRELY WESTERN-ORIENTED. CANADA IS WILLING AND FREQUENTLY ANXIOUS TO CONSULT WITH ITS WESTERN PARTNERS AND

CAN BE AN AGGRESSIVE COLLEAGUE IN WESTERN LOBBYING EFFORTS
IN WHAT THE GOC SEES AS A GOOD CAUSE. EVEN IN CAUSES WHICH
CANADA VIEWS AS SOMEWHAT LESS THAN JUST, THE GOC IS AMENABLE
TO A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF ARM-TWISTING AND, IN CASES OF VITAL
IMPORTANCE TO THE U.S., CANADA CAN BE TURNED AROUND. IT
IS, IN SHORT, IN THE MARGINAL AREAS WHERE CANADA PLAYS UP
TO THE THIRD WORLD WITH ABSTENTIONS OR CLAUSE-BY-
CLAUSE VOTING, ATTEMPTING TO SEPARATE THE OBNOXIOUS FROM THE
ACCEPTABLE. TIME AND AGAIN, WITH RESOLUTION THE U.S. FINDS
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ENTIRELY UNACCEPTABLE, THE CANADIAN REACTIONS IS "LET US SEE
IF THE FINAL TEXT IS GENERAL ENOUGH FOR US TO GO ALONG
WITH IT." THEIR THRESHOLD OF PAIN FROM LDC EXCESSES IS,
IN SHORT, HIGHER THAN OUR OWN.

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15. NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER AND RELATED ECONOMIC ISSUES -- CANADA CAN BE EXPECTED TO TAKE A RELATIVELY CONCILIATORY STANCE ON THE GENERAL CONCEPT OF NIEO. IT HAS FEW HANGUPS ON THE TERMINOLOGY AND PM TRUDEAU AND EXTAFF MINISTER MACEACHEN HAVE PUBLICLY ENDORSED THE PRINCIPLE OF LARGE-SCALE TRANSFER OF RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY FROM THE HAVES TO THE HAVE-NOT NATIONS. CANADA HAS ACCEPTED THE 0.7 PERCENT OF GNP AID TARGET AND WITH ITS SUBSTANTIAL BILAAERAL AID PROGRAM, LARGE FOOD AID COMMITMENT, AND INCREASED CONTRIBUTIONS TO REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND OTHER MULTILATERAL AID EFFORTS HAS SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT. FURTHERMORE, CANADA IS ALSO AN EXPORTER OF COMMODITIES AND RAW MATERIALS AND HAS BEEN PRESSING FOR SOME TIME FOR CHANGES IN THE INTERNATIONAL TRADE STRUCTURE SO AS TO UPGRADE CANADIAN EXPORTS, THUS APPEARING ON THE SURFACE AT LEAST TO HAVE A DEGREE OF COMMON INTEREST WITH THE LDCS.

16. WHEN IT COMES TO SPECIFIC LDC ACTION RECOMMENDATIONS
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WHICH IMPACT ON CANADIAN COMMERCIAL AND FINANCIAL INTERESTS AND WHICH ENGAGE THE ACTIVE INTEREST OF DOMESTIC AGENCIES SUCH AS THE DEPARTMENTS OF FINANCE AND INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE, CANADA'S POSITION IS LIKELY TO BE MORE CONSERVATIVE, ALBEIT IN SOME CASES LESS NEGATIVE THAN THAT OF THE USG. RE COMMODITIES, FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOC IS PREPARED TO SUPPORT INTERNATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDIVIDUAL COMMODITIES PROVIDED BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS ARE REPRESENTED. IT COMMITTED ITSELF AT NAIROBI TO CONTRIBUTING TO A COMMON FUND, ONCE IT WAS SATISFIED THAT A COMMON FUND WAS VIABLE. RE DEBT RELIEF, CANADA LIKE THE U.S. WANTS TO DEAL WITH PROBLEM COUNTRIES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS BUT IS LESS RESISTANT THAN THE U.S. TO DISCUSSION OF GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF DEBT RESCHEDULING OR EVEN TO CONVOCATION OF A DEBT CONFERENCE.

17. CANADA'S ROLE AS CO-CHAIRMAN OF CIEC SHOULD GIVE IT A SPECIAL ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITY AT THIS UNGA SESSION AND SHOULD INHIBIT IT FROM TAKING POSITIONS THAT VARY SIGNIFICANTLY FROM THOSE OF THE G-8 AND THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRY GROUPS AS A WHOLE.

18. ELECTIONS-APPOINTMENTS -- AT TOP OF THE LIST OF GOC INTERESTS IS, OF COURSE, ITS CANDIDACY FOR A SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT. THE MATTER, WHICH WILL BE RAISED IN NOVEMBER, IS TAKEN BY THE GOC AS A FOREGONE CONCLUSION AND THE GOC EXPECTS TO TAKE ITS SEAT IN JANUARY.

19. THE GOC CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ITS CANDIDATE, VOGEL,

FOR DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. IT IS NOT HAPPY WITH THE U.S. CANDIDATE FOR THE NO. 2 POSITION SINCE IT VIEWS THIS AS A DIVERSION WHICH WILL ALLOW SG WALDHEIM TO PASS OVER VOGEL FOR A COMPETING THIRD WORLD CANDIDATE; IT SEEMS TO HAVE ACCEPTED THE SITUATION FAIRLY GRACEFULLY.

20. THE GOC IS APPARENTLY GETTING MIXED READINGS ON WALDHEIM'S PROSPECTS FOR ANOTHER TERM AS SECRETARY GENERAL. THEY WILL SUPPORT HIM IF HE CHOOSES TO RUN AND, OF COURSE, IF HE IS ACCEPTABLE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE GOC HAS RECEIVED THIRD-HAND INFORMATION TO THE EFFECT THAT THE PRC INTENDS TO VETO A WALDHEIM CANDIDACY BUT DISCOUNTS
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THIS AS NO MORE THAN A VAGUE AND CURIOUS RUMOR. THE GOC IS NOT ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT ECHEVERRIA CANDIDACY.

21. MEMBERSHIP -- PURSUANT TO ITS SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSALITY, THE GOC IS IN FAVOR OF MEMBERSHIP FOR BOTH VIETNAM AND ANGOLA. IT WOULD BE INTERESTED IN INDICATIONS OF LIKELY U.S. ACTION ON A VIETNAM MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND MAY RAISE THE ISSUE DURING PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS.

22. OF A DIFFERENT ORDER OF IMPORTANCE, THE GOC WILL BE LOBBYING ON BEHALF OF OBSERVER STATUS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARIAT.

23. DISARMAMENT -- WE HAVE NOT HAD EXTENSIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH GOC OFFICIALS ON UN DISARMAMENT QUESTIONS. WE HAVE, HOWEVER, RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING IMPRESSIONS DURING OUR BRIEF CONVERSATIONS ON THE SUBJECT. THE NAM SUMMIT CONFERENCE IN COLOMBO CALLED FOR A SPECIAL SESSION OF THE UNGA TO DEAL WITH DISARMAMENT. THE GOC IS NOT ENTHUSED BY THIS PROSPECT, JUST AS IT IS LUKEWARM TO CONTINUING CALLS FOR A WORLD DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE. IN THE WORDS OF ONE CANADIAN OFFICIAL, THESE ARE "LIKE TWO ELEPHANTS MAKING LOVE. MUCH ACTIVITY AND TRUMPETING AT A HIGH LEVEL BUT NO RESULTS FOR A LONG TIME." THE GOC EXPECTS THAT THE USUAL RANGE OF PERENNIAL DISARMAMENT TOPICS WILL APPEAR DURING THE UNGA SESSION BUT ONLY A POSSIBLE RESOLUTION ON A ZONE OF PEACE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD CREATE NEW CONTROVERSY. THE GOC RESPONSE TO THIS WILL DEPEND ON THE WORDING OF THE PARTICULAR RESOLUTION. IF IT IS WORDED GENERALLY ENOUGH, THE GOC WILL VOTE FOR IT; IF IT HAS "BARBS IN IT" THE GOC MAY VOTE NO OR ABSTAIN.

24. TERRORISM -- THE GOC IS PRESENTLY REVIEWING ITS OVERALL POLICY ON TERRORISM. IT HAS RECEIVED THE FRG DRAFT RESOLUTION ON HOSTAGES AND A COURT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS BUT HAS RECEIVED NO FRG FOLLOW-UP AND HAS COME TO NO

CONCLUSIONS ON THE DRAFT. AN EXTAFF OFFICIAL UNDERSTANDS THAT GERMAN FOREIGN MINISTER TENSCHER MAY RAISE THE FRG PROPOSAL DURING HIS SPEECH TO THE UNGA AND REQUEST INSCRIPTION OF THE ITEM ON THE AGENDA. ALTHOUGH GOC POLICY ON TERRORISM IS NOT YET WELL DEFINED, WE ARE CONFIDENT
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THAT CANADIAN CONCERNS PARALLEL OUR OWN AND THAT THE GOC WILL BE WILLING TO SUPPORT ANY POSITIVE APPROACH WHICH HAS A REASONABLE CHANCE OF SUCCESS.

25. COMMITTEE ON UN FINANCIAL CRISIS -- THE GOC ANTICIPATES THAT THE WORK OF THIS COMMITTEE MAY EMERGE DURING THE COMING UNGA SESSION, AND IF RESULTING RECOMMENDATIONS ARE REASONABLE THE GOC WILL SUPPORT THEM. IT IS WORTH NOTING THAT CANADA VIEWS THE FINANCIAL PLIGHT OF THE UN WITH SINCERE CONCERN, AND HAS BEEN THE FIRST MEMBER STATE TO PAY ITS SHARE EACH YEAR SINCE THE LATE 1960S.

26. CHARTER REVIEW AND STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UN -- THE GOC DOES NOT SEE CHARTER REVIEW PROPOSALS GETTING ANYWHERE SINCE "THE RUSSIANS WILL NOT ALLOW THE CHANGE OF A COMMA." IT APPARENTLY IS SOMEWHAT MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROPOSALS ON STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF THE UN AND CANADIAN OFFICIALS MAY SOLICIT U.S. VIEWS ON THIS DURING PRE-UNGA CONSULTATIONS.

27. RESTRUCTURING -- THE GOC HAS ASKED FOR NATO DISCUSSIONS SEPTEMBER 9-10 ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF 25.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
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Document Source: CORE
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

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Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOME LIKELY CANADIAN POSITIONS AT 31ST UNGA
TAGS: PFOR, CA, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006